

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐ no ☒

Property Name: Aquilla Baldwin House Inventory Number: HA-2191
 Address: 27 E. Bel Air Avenue Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
 City: Aberdeen Zip Code: 21001 County: Harford
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Aberdeen
 Property Owner: Cribs LLC Tax Account ID Number: 02001853
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 2073 Tax Map Number: 204
 Project: Aberdeen MARC Station Parking Expansion Agency: MTA
 Agency Prepared By: JMA, Inc. for MTA
 Preparer's Name: Katherine L. Farnham Date Prepared: 1/14/2009

Documentation is presented in: Maryland Real Property Database; US Census; Aberdeen Centennial Almanac 1992; Richard F. Cronin - History of Aberdeen, 1976; C.G. Cronin - Sketches of Village to Town to City, 2006; C. M. Wright - Our Harford Heritage, 1967.

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no

Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The dwelling at 27 East Bel Air Avenue is located on a wide lot a short distance east of the Amtrak right-of-way. It is set back from the street with an open front yard and a wooded rear yard, with a hedgerow and paved driveway along the west side of the property. The house is flanked on both sides by dwellings, with a duplex on the west and a single-family dwelling to the east.

This building is a two-and-one-half-story cross-gabled wood-frame dwelling, set on a stone foundation and facing south toward the street. Its roof is clad in asphalt shingles and it is sided with painted brown wood shingles. The eaves are boxed with vinyl cladding. All windows except those in the attic are one-over-one, double-hung vinyl-clad wood replacement sash with vinyl-clad surrounds. It has an L-plan footprint, giving it a gable-front-and-wing configuration.

The primary section of the house is a front-gabled block with two bays facing the street and three bays facing the east side of the property. The rearmost bay of this block (beginning at the northernmost end of the porch) appears to be an addition with a brick foundation. On the first floor of the main section is a hexagonal bay window facing the street, and its attic has a single original two-over-two gable window, altered somewhat with paint. On the east side, it has a single entrance door with a one-light transom on

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Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒
 Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Jim Tewarum ✓
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

B. Kuntz
 Reviewer, National Register Program

2/23/09
 Date

3/4/09
 Date

HA-2191

Aquila Baldwin House

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The first floor. The door is an old nine-light, two-panel door. An original square brick chimney projects from the center of the roof, and an exterior concrete-block chimney stands against the north end wall, flanked by a window on each side of both the first and second floors. The west wall has a full-width enclosed shed-roof porch on the first floor and two windows on the second floor. The enclosed porch has its own small entry porch, probably dating from ca. 1950s. The entry door into the enclosed porch is a historic ca. 1880s door.

A perpendicular gabled ell projects westward from the main block, flush with the south front wall of the main block and forming part of the street façade. The ell appears to be original, and is two bays long in front and one bay deep on the side. The home's front door is located within the ell, and is a modern vinyl-clad replacement door with a half-wheel upper light. The ell has a small attic dormer on the front side of its roof, containing a small two-over-two double-hung original wood sash window.

A one-story hip-roofed wraparound porch spans the entirety of the south façade and much of the east facade of the house. The porch, probably dating from ca. 1910-1930, appears to be a replacement for an original ca. 1880s porch with turned posts. It has modest Colonial Revival details, including round Doric columns and a gabled pediment above the main entrance. Its balustrades have simple railings and square balusters. At least one original turned porch post survives at the back of the porch on the east side of the house. The porch has a wood floor and concrete front steps, and its ceiling is covered with vinyl cladding.

This dwelling and its neighbors were located on what was a primary cross-route through Aberdeen until relatively recent times. The adjacent railroad served as a boundary between downtown Aberdeen, laid out in an original grid plan, and the Halls Crossroads area east of the tracks, which eventually was incorporated into the town and known as East Aberdeen. East Bel Air Avenue contained a number of fine late nineteenth century single houses belonging to prominent individuals in the town. Two double houses formed a buffer between the single houses on large lots to the east, and two one-story commercial properties to the west, with the railroad crossing just west of the commercial buildings. Based on census listings, the double houses appear to have been the home of several working-class tenants, contrasted with the larger owner-occupied houses to the east, such as this one.

The Maryland Real Property Tax Database indicates that 27 East Bel Air Avenue was constructed ca. 1850, but this date does not appear accurate based on historic maps. The house does not appear on the 1858 map or the 1878 Martenet map, but does appear in the 1900 map showing this block completely built up. Historical information also seems to support a later date.

It appears likely that the Aquilla Baldwin House was constructed between 1878 and 1900, probably ca. 1880. Aquilla R. Baldwin was a music professor and the conductor of the Aberdeen Band. He taught piano lessons to local children. Census records indicate that he was born in 1881 and his parents were Jarrett and Susie Baldwin. Jarrett, born in 1853, was a second-generation blacksmith who grew up in Halls Crossroads, and probably constructed the house ca. 1880. Professor Aquilla Baldwin did not marry and lived in the family home as an adult, sharing it with his parents and a few other relatives. The 1900 census shows Aquilla residing at home with his parents and older brother William, a bank clerk. His occupation was listed as musician. By 1910, he was a "music teacher." As of 1930, Aquilla Baldwin still resided in the house with his elderly mother and was employed as a musician. The next owner was a family named Lewis. Deborah Lewis, born ca. 1930, spent some of her childhood in this house and attended Baltimore Friends School, graduating in 1948. She was later inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame. She married George Adams, who grew up in the same neighborhood. George Adams eventually had title to the house and sold it in 2004 to the present owner. It is now rented to tenants.

The Aquilla Baldwin House is a common type of late nineteenth century vernacular house seen frequently in Maryland and Delaware. It has lost considerable integrity due to both early-mid 20th century alterations and relatively recent modernization. It was altered from its original Victorian vernacular appearance to a more Colonial Revival appearance during the early 1900s, primarily through removal of all exterior ornamentation and alteration of its porch. This change in itself can be considered

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

historic, but gives the house a more recent overall appearance that does not reflect its original construction period. The changes made at that time prevent it from being a good example of a ca. 1880s vernacular dwelling. The newer Colonial Revival elements are neither distinctive nor extensive enough to give the house an overall Colonial Revival character. A new full-height rear extension with concrete chimney, and a rear entry porch were added probably ca. 1930s-1950s. The large addition changed the massing of the house.

The setting of this house has been altered immeasurably by changes made since 1980. The most major change is the elimination of the nearby grade crossing, resulting in the raising of the tracks, closing off of East Bel Air Avenue as a gateway to central Aberdeen, and the construction of the road viaduct, pedestrian bridge, and parking lots. In addition, numerous historic buildings in the vicinity have been demolished, including the old railroad station and buildings to the west of and across the street from the two properties. Construction of a new train station and two modern apartment complexes in place of the demolished resources have further altered the neighborhood setting.

While some historic materials survive, unsympathetic renovations to the house within the past decade, including replacement of most of its windows and the addition of vinyl exterior eave boxing and porch ceiling cladding, have resulted in loss of integrity of materials and workmanship. Between this and earlier renovations, the house is no longer a good example of its type or style, and does not clearly convey its history. Although the house is associated with the Baldwin family and later the Lewis and Adams families, no individual associated with the property is of sufficient importance in the community to meet the qualifications for Criterion A of the National Register Criteria. The house is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

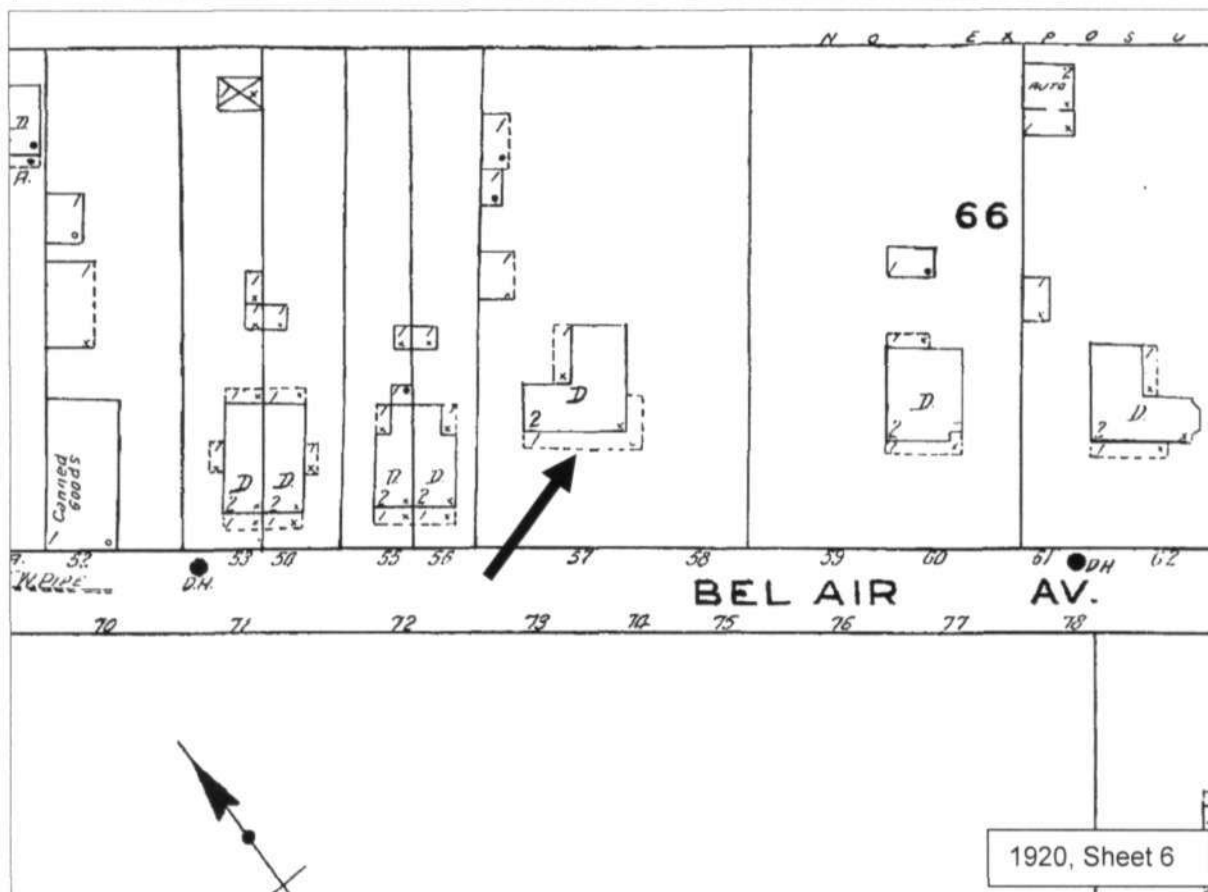
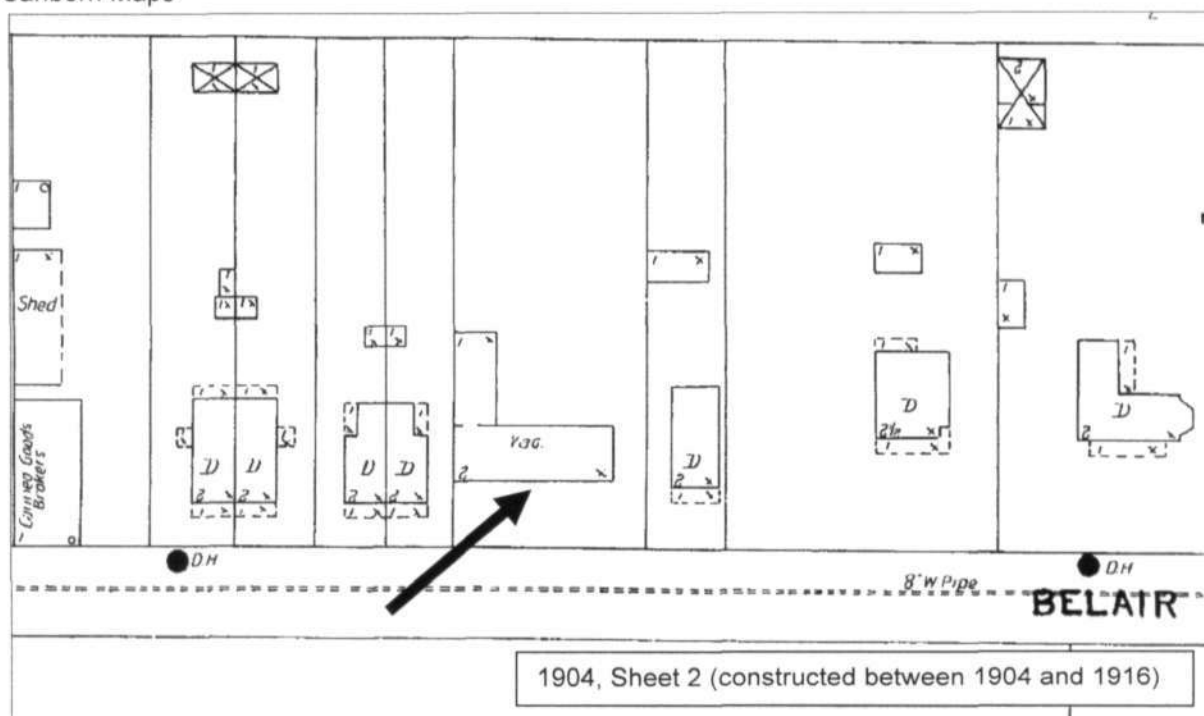
Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

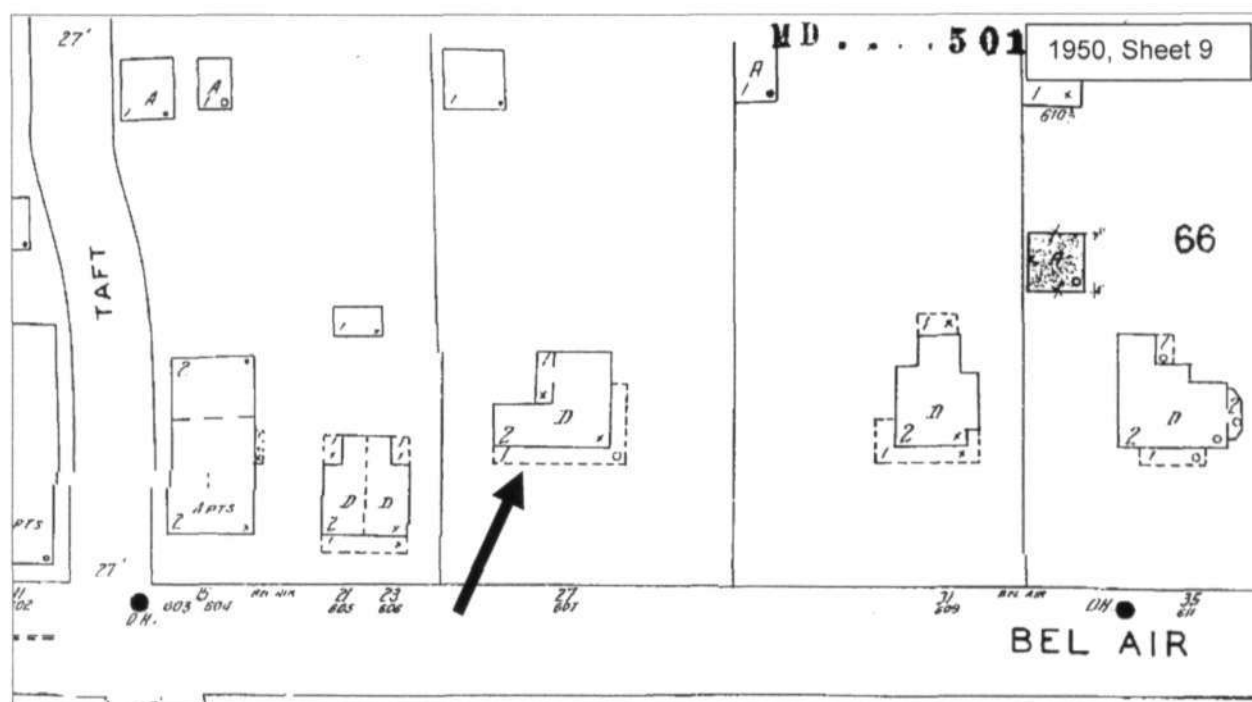
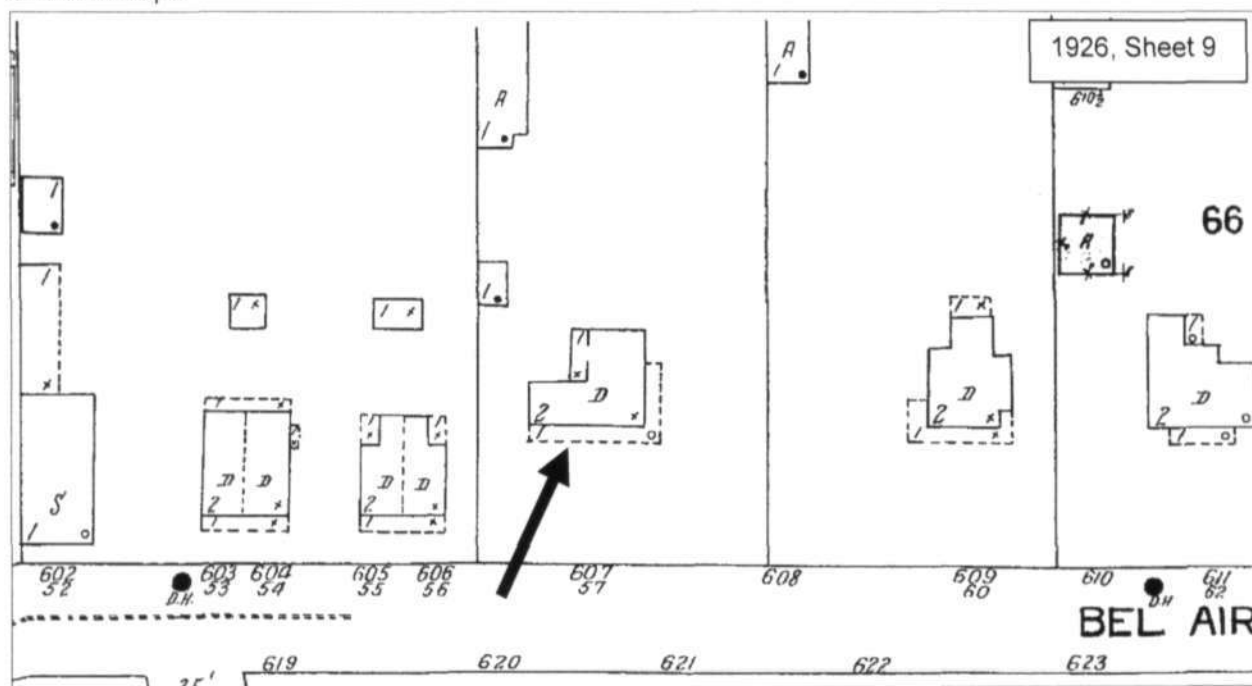
MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

HA-2191
 Aquilla Baldwin House
 27 East Bel Air Avenue
 Sanborn Maps



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 Aquilla Baldwin House
 27 East Bel Air Avenue
 Sanborn Maps



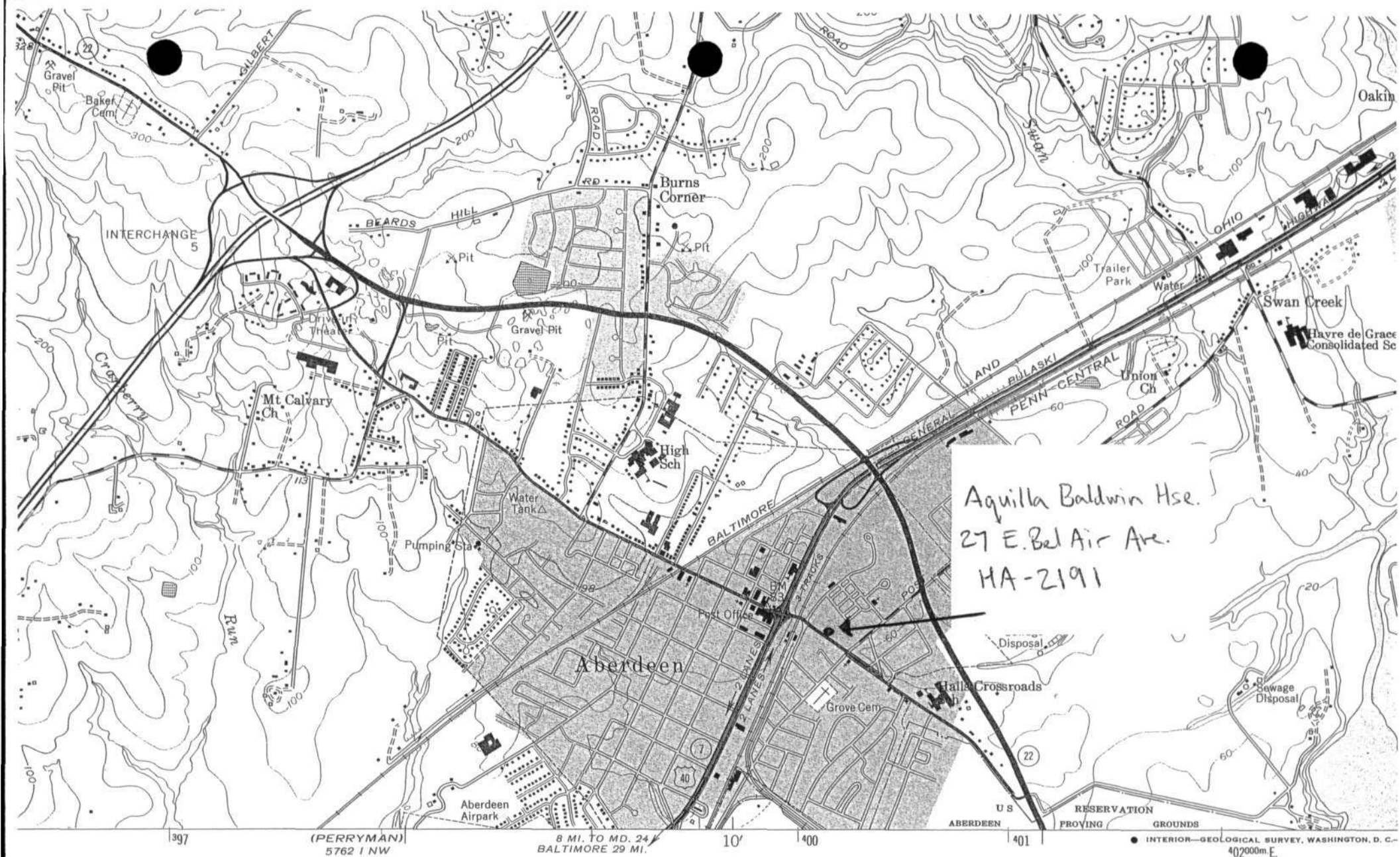
HA-2191
Aquila Baldwin House
27 East Bel Air Avenue
Aberdeen quad, 1953 (Photorevised 1985)



National Web Map Service 6" OPM, 2007-08

Tax Map 25, P.2072







HA-2191

Aquilla Baldwin House, 27 E. Bel Air Ave., Aberdeen

Harford Co., MD

K. Farnham

1/15/2009

MD SHPO

Front, view to E

#1 of 4



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Aquilla Baldwin House. 27 E. Bel Air Ave., Aberdeen

Harford Co., MD

K. Farnham

1/15/2009

MD SHPO

Front, view to N

2 of 4



HA-2191

Aquilla Baldwin House, 27 E. Bel Air Ave., Aberdeen
Harford Co., MD

K. Farnham

11/15/2009

MD SHPO

Rear/side, view to W

#3 of 4



HA-2191

Aquila Baldwin House, 27 E. Bel Air Ave., Aberdeen

Harford Co., MD

K. Farnham

1/15/2009

MD SHPO

Rear, to S

#4 of 4

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HA-2191

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Halls Park House
other Osborn Tract Addition

2. Location

street and number 27 East Bel Air Avenue not for publication
city, town Aberdeen Avenue vicinity
county Harford

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Cribs LLC
street and number P.O. Box 750 telephone
city, town Fallston state MD zip code 21047-0750

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bel Air County Courthouse liber 5541 folio 447
city, town Bel air tax map 204 tax parcel 2073 tax ID number 02 001853

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. HA-2191

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The house at 27 East Bel Air Avenue is a 2-story, single pile, wood-shingled dwelling with cross-gable ell at one end and wrap-around porch. The house has two chimneys and a single front gabled dormer. At four bays wide, the windows are narrow one over one. The transom front door is offset significantly from the center-gabled porch entry. The porch is capped with a flattened hip roof and supported by turned columns. No foundation is visible.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HA-2191

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1850

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

An early dwelling in Halls Park near Halls Cross Roads, built in 1850, sold in 1879-1880 by William M. Elliott and wife Catherine A. Elliott to Jarrett Baldwin for \$225.00. This was 20 years before Aberdeen was incorporated, when Old Post Route (current Route 7) was the main thoroughfare between New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore and Washington D.C.

Halls Park and Halls Cross Roads were named for Aquila Hall.

1835 – Halls Cross Roads, Mechanicsville.

1870 population 300.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HA-2191

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 100' X 200' or .46 acres

Acreage of historical setting

Quadrangle name Aberdeen

Quadrangle scale:

Verbal boundary description and justification

20,000 square feet (100' X 200')

11. Form Prepared by

name/title			
organization	Aberdeen Heritage Trust	date	2009
street & number	4 South Park Street	telephone	
city or town	Aberdeen	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

HA-2191

Aquilla Baldwin House (Halls Park House, Osborn Tract Addition)

27 East Bel Air Avenue

Aberdeen quad, 1953 (Photorevised 1985)



National Web Map Service 6" OPM, 2007-08

Tax Map 25, P.2073

